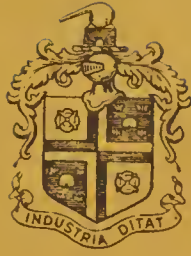


I



BOROUGH OF WIDNES

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for

1972

B O R O U G H O F W I D N E S
A N N U A L R E P O R T
of the
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H
1972

To the Chairman and Members of the Health and Housing Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my report on the health of Widnes for the year 1972. The vital statistics, along with those for England and Wales show an increase in the number of deaths and a fall in the birth rate. There seems to be little doubt that the present trend in the birth rate is downward.

The most pleasing feature of this report is undoubtedly the continuance of the downward trend in infant deaths which I anticipated in my annual report for 1970. The rate of 15.2 per 1,000 live births is once again below the national figure which is also falling. Although there was a higher stillbirth rate than the exceptionally low one of the previous year, the figure for 1972 was the third lowest recorded. I am also happy to report that there were no maternal deaths during the year.

As in recent years, just over half the total deaths occurring in the Borough were caused by diseases of the circulatory system. The other main causes of death, cancer (22%) and diseases of the respiratory system (17%) show an increase over the figures for 1971. There were, however, no deaths from infectious diseases.

Apart from a fairly high incidence of measles in the second half of the year notifications of infectious diseases remained low. The 3 cases of respiratory tuberculosis notified were all over 45 years of age and the 5 cases of typhoid fever were members of one family which had just returned from a period of residence in West Africa.

The public health department regained full establishment during the year and was consequently better able to deal with its various commitments. Altogether 5,509 visits to premises were made by public health inspectors and 1,003 nuisances or contraventions abated or rectified. 631 notices were served and legal proceedings taken in 6 cases. Compliance with regulations made under the Food and Drugs Act, continued to be enforced and increased activity occurred under the Housing, Clean Air and Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Acts. One hundred and sixty-nine houses were represented for demolition; work on smoke control areas was re-started and 496 premises received a general inspection under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act. Sources of domestic and industrial smoke were kept under observation and investigations carried out, with the ready assistance of the Alkali Works Inspectorate, into other forms of atmospheric pollution. Investigation into infectious diseases does not normally, these days, take up much of inspectors' time but in 1972 two outbreaks, one of typhoid fever and one of food poisoning, required full scale investigation and involved the taking of many specimens for bacteriological examination.

In conclusion I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Health and Housing Committee for their support and encouragement during the year, and also to the officials of the Corporation, in particular Mr. D. M. Griffiths, for his assistance at all times.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

F. W. BUNTING,

Medical Officer of Health.

Municipal Building,
Kingsway,
Widnes, WA8 7QF

Tel. No. 051-424 2061.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of the Borough in acres	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,178
Population at Census, 1971	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	56,709
Population estimated, 1972	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	57,420
Density of Population (i.e. no. of persons per acre)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9.3
No. of Inhabited Dwellings (1971 Census)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17,492
No. of Inhabited Dwellings (according to rate book)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18,275
Rateable Value of Borough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£2,470,157
Sum represented by 1p rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£23,700

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

Live Births

Number - Male 491 Females 494	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	985
Rate per 1,000 population (adjusted)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.9

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	7.6
--	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----

Stillbirths

Number	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16

Total live and stillbirths	1,001
----------------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-------

Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year)	15
-------------------------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

Infant mortality rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.2
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13.3
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26.7

Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	10.2
---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	------

Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	9.1
--	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----

Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	25.0
--	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	------

Maternal mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

Deaths

Number - Males 314 Females 313	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	627
Rate per 1,000 population - Crude	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10.9
Adjusted	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14.8

Excess of births over deaths	358
------------------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----

Death rate from influenza per 1,000 of the population	0.09
---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	------

Death rate from cancer per 1,000 of the population	2.40
--	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	------

Death rate from respiratory tuberculosis per 1,000 of the population	Nil
--	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----

Percentage of total deaths occurring in hospital, etc.	54
--	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

POPULATION -

The population returns since 1861 are given below:-

Year	Population	Inhabited houses	Average per house
1861	6,892	1,150	5.99
1871	14,359	2,519	5.66
1881	24,918	4,994	5.00
1891	30,011	5,121	5.86
1901	28,580	5,350	5.34
1911	31,544	6,102	5.16
1921	38,879	7,437	5.22
1931	40,619	8,534	4.63
1951	48,785	12,459	3.91
1961	52,186	15,146	3.45
1971	56,709	17,492	3.24

The Registrar General's estimate of the population for the year 1972 was 57,420. This is an increase of 460 over the estimated population for 1971.

LIVE BIRTHS -

	Totals	Males	Females		
Legitimate	910	454	456	}	Birth rate 16.9
Illegitimate	75	37	38		
Birth rate for England and Wales .. .. .		.. .. .	.. .. .		14.8

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS -

The percentage of live births which were illegitimate during each of the past fifteen years is as follows:-

1958	4.1 per cent	1965	5.6 per cent
1959	4.7 per cent	1966	8.0 per cent
1960	3.8 per cent	1967	7.5 per cent
1961	5.2 per cent	1968	7.9 per cent
1962	4.4 per cent	1969	8.8 per cent
1963	4.4 per cent	1970	6.7 per cent
1964	5.5 per cent	1971	7.6 per cent
1972	7.6 per cent		

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1972

CAUSES OF DEATH	Sex	All ages	Under 1 year	1 - 4 years	5 - 14 years	15 - 24 years	25 - 34 years	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years and over
Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
oesophagus	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1
stomach	M	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	8	1
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
intestine	M	8	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	4	1
	F	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	7	2
larynx	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
lung, bronchus	M	38	-	-	-	-	1	1	6	13	15	2
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3
breast	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	11	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	2	4	-
uterus	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1
prostate	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1
Leukaemia	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other malignant neoplasms	M	13	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	3	3	2
	F	17	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	6	5	1
Diabetes mellitus	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1
Other endocrine etc. diseases	M	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Anaemias	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other diseases of blood, etc.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Mental disorders	M	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other diseases of nervous system	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Hypertensive disease	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	2
	F	8	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	1	3
Ischaemic heart disease	M	65	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	20	19	16
	F	68	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	8	21	36
Other forms of heart disease	M	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	8
	F	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	22
Cerebrovascular disease	M	28	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	8	17
	F	46	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	15	26
Other diseases of circulatory system	M	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	7
	F	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	7

CAUSES OF DEATH		Sex	All ages	Under 1 year	1 - 4 years	5 - 14 years	15 - 24 years	25 - 34 years	35 - 44 years	45 - 54 years	55 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years and over
Influenza	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
Pneumonia	M	22	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	12
	F	26	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	17
Bronchitis and emphysema	M	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	8	16	7
	F	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	2
Asthma	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	M	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
	F	5	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1
Peptic ulcer	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4
Cirrhosis of liver	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
Other diseases of digestive system	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	M	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Congenital anomalies	M	4	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	F	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Birth injury, difficult labour etc.	M	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other causes of perinatal mortality	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Motor vehicle accidents	M	8	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	2	-
	F	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All other accidents	M	7	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	1	1
	F	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	5
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
All other external causes	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
	F	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
TOTALS		M	314	10	1	3	6	1	8	29	68	99	89
		F	313	5	4	2	2	4	7	19	38	80	152

Deaths from Cancer in age groups over the past ten years and rates per 1,000 of population -

Year	Age Groups					Per 1,000 total population	
	1-14	15-44	45-64	65+	All ages	Widnes	Eng. & Wales
1963	3	5	36	49	93	1.73	2.18
1964	2	4	59	51	116	2.16	2.21
1965	1	2	54	51	108	1.99	2.23
1966	2	4	52	47	105	1.93	2.25
1967	1	6	37	56	100	1.83	2.27
1968	1	6	48	51	106	1.98	2.32
1969	-	14	45	63	122	2.21	2.35
1970	2	2	59	68	131	2.35	2.39
1971	1	11	40	52	104	1.83	2.39
1972	-	11	52	75	138	2.40	2.44

Details of Cancer Deaths over the past ten years -

Year	Site	Age Groups					Rate per 1,000 Pop'n.	Total All ages	
		1-14	15-44	45-64	65-74	75 +		M	F
1963	Stomach	-	-	5	5	2	0.22	7	5
	Lung, bronchus	-	-	12	7	3	0.41	19	3
	Other sites	2	6	19	16	16	1.10	30	29
1964	Stomach	-	1	12	6	3	0.41	15	7
	Lung, bronchus	-	-	20	10	3	0.61	29	4
	Other sites	2	3	27	16	13	1.14	26	35
1965	Stomach	-	-	6	3	6	0.28	7	8
	Lung, bronchus	-	-	26	5	5	0.66	33	3
	Other sites	1	2	22	16	16	1.05	26	31
1966	Stomach	-	-	7	11	3	0.39	13	8
	Lung, bronchus	-	2	15	4	7	0.51	24	4
	Other sites	2	2	30	11	11	1.03	24	32
1967	Stomach	-	-	2	6	8	0.29	9	7
	Lung, bronchus	-	2	7	9	2	0.37	18	2
	Other sites	1	4	28	14	17	1.17	29	35
1968	Stomach	-	-	8	7	4	0.35	11	8
	Lung, bronchus	-	-	17	6	3	0.48	20	6
	Other sites	1	6	23	23	8	1.14	30	31
1969	Stomach	-	-	7	7	3	0.31	10	7
	Lung, bronchus	-	2	14	14	3	0.60	27	6
	Other sites	-	12	24	17	19	1.31	36	36
1970	Stomach	-	1	8	10	3	0.39	14	8
	Lung, bronchus	-	-	21	20	3	0.79	39	5
	Other sites	2	1	30	18	14	1.17	23	42
1971	Stomach	-	1	4	3	7	0.26	9	6
	Lung, bronchus	-	-	9	8	4	0.37	20	1
	Other sites	1	10	27	11	19	1.19	35	33
1972	Stomach	-	-	3	9	3	0.26	12	3
	Lung, bronchus	-	2	20	17	5	0.77	38	6
	Other sites	-	9	29	30	11	1.38	32	37

DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM -

The following table shows death rates per 1,000 of the population from diseases of the respiratory system which occurred in the Borough, together with corresponding data for England and Wales.

Disease	Widnes	England and Wales
Influenza	0.087	0.061
Pneumonia	0.836	0.926
Bronchitis	0.731	0.584
Other diseases of respiratory system	0.209	0.105
Cancer of lung and bronchus	0.766	0.646
Respiratory tuberculosis	Nil	0.027

DETAILS OF DEATHS DUE TO ACCIDENTS -

There was a slight rise in the accidental death rate. The principal causes, once again, being associated with motor vehicles and falls. It is pleasing to note that none of the accidents referred to in the following table occurred at work.

(a) CAUSE OF ACCIDENTAL DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS 1972 -

Causes	Under 1 year	1 - 4 years	5 - 14 years	15 - 44 years	45 - 64 years	65 - 74 years	75 years and over	All ages
Road traffic accidents	-	-	-	4	3	2	-	9
Falls	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	8
Other causes	1	-	1	3	2	-	-	7
TOTALS	1	-	1	7	5	4	6	24

(b) PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF ACCIDENTAL DEATHS OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS -

Year	All Causes	Road Traffic	At Work	Falls
1963	25	3	3	11
1964	23	11	1	6
1965	25	8	1	5
1966	33	12	1	7
1967	17	8	1	5
1968	18	7	3	5
1969	22	5	2	10
1970	20	7	1	8
1971	21	9	2	9
1972	24	9	-	8

The following table summarises vital statistics of the Borough

Year	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
									Total		Neo-natal	
	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births		
1972	985	17.2	627	10.9	16	16.0	Nil	Nil	15	15.2	10	10.2
1971	1,088	19.1	567	10.0	10	9.1	2	1.8	18	16.5	11	10.1
1970	1,143	20.5	593	10.6	26	22.2	Nil	Nil	33	28.9	22	19.2
1969	1,005	18.2	610	11.1	30	28.9	Nil	Nil	19	18.9	11	10.9
1968	1,075	20.0	562	10.5	23	20.9	Nil	Nil	15	13.9	11	10.2
1967	1,080	19.8	566	10.4	24	21.7	Nil	Nil	22	20.4	14	13.0
Average 5 years 1967-71	1,078	19.5	580	10.5	23	20.6	0.4	0.4	21	19.7	14	12.7

Adjusted live birth-rate (comparability factor 0.98) - 16.9
Adjusted death rate (comparability factor 1.36) - 14.8

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS 1927-72

The following table summarises some vital statistics of the Borough over a period of 46 years -

	Per 1,000 of estimated population				Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total (live & still birth)	Rate of deaths under one year per 1,000 live births
	Crude live birth rate	Crude death rate	Death rate from tuberculosis of respiratory system	Death rate from cancer		
Mean of 5 years						
1927-31	21.1	12.2	0.93	1.11	3.21	73
1932-36	19.9	11.9	0.70	1.24	3.82	70
1937-41	21.7	14.9	0.66	1.46	2.28	87
1942-46	22.5	11.8	0.64	1.77	1.85	69
1947-51	22.6	11.1	0.50	1.76	0.38	55
1952-56	19.6	9.7	0.17	2.07	0.82	30
1957-61	21.7	9.9	0.05	1.90	0.34	29
1962-66	22.6	10.5	0.04	1.94	0.81	27
1967-71	19.5	10.5	0.02	2.04	0.36	20
Mean of 45 years	21.2	11.4	0.41	1.70	1.54	53
Year 1972	17.2	10.9	Nil	2.40	Nil	15

VITAL STATISTICS

The following provisional figures based on the Registrar General's Quarterly Returns of birth and death rates, together with case rates for certain infectious diseases for England and Wales are shown together with corresponding data in respect of the Borough of Widnes.

	England and Wales	Borough of Widnes
	Rates per 1,000 population	Rates per 1,000 population
<u>Births:</u>		
Live Births	14.8	16.9 (c)
Stillbirths	12.0 (a)	16.0 (a)
<u>Deaths:</u>		
All causes	12.1	14.8 (c)
Tuberculosis (all forms)		Nil
Respiratory		Nil
Non-respiratory		Nil
Cancer (all forms)		2.403
Lung and bronchus		0.766
Other cancer		1.637
Maternal mortality (total)	(a)	Nil (a)
Maternal causes (excluding abortion)	(a)	Nil (a)
Due to abortion	(a)	Nil (a)
Infant mortality	17.2 (b)	15.2 (b)
Neonatal mortality	11.5 (b)	10.2 (b)
Early neonatal mortality	9.8 (b)	9.1 (b)
Perinatal mortality	21.7 (a)	25.0 (a)
<u>Notifications (Corrected):</u>		
Typhoid fever	0.003	0.087
Paratyphoid fever	0.002	Nil
Scarlet fever	0.228	0.035
Whooping cough	0.042	Nil
Diphtheria	0.000	Nil
Smallpox	0.000	Nil
Measles	2.971	3.901
Acute poliomyelitis	0.000	Nil
Acute encephalitis	0.003	Nil
Dysentery	0.184	0.017
Food Poisoning	0.111	0.052
Anthrax	0.000	Nil
Ophthalmia neonatorum	0.007	Nil
Infective jaundice	0.250	0.052
Acute meningitis	0.032	Nil
Tetanus	0.000	Nil
Leptospirosis	0.000	Nil
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	0.177	0.052
Meninges and C.N.S.	0.002	Nil
Other	0.046	0.017

(a) Per 1,000 total (live and still) births
(c) Adjusted rate.

(b) Per 1,000 live births

The following statistics are taken from the annual reports of the Medical Officer of Health for the years 1940, 1952 and 1962 and are shown together with comparable data relating to the year under review. Rates are per 1,000 of the population unless otherwise stated.

	1972	1962	1952	1940*
Estimated population	57,420	53,300	48,800	42,270
Crude birth rate	17.2	24.4	20.1	23.8
Illegitimate live births (percentage of total live births)	7.6	4.4	4.1	4.7
Crude death rate	10.9	10.3	10.5	14.6
Excess of births over deaths	358	747	471	389
Infant mortality per 1,000 births	15	28	34	88
Maternal mortality per 1,000 births	Nil	0.75	Nil	2.97
Death rates from -				
measles	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.02
diphtheria	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.14
whooping cough	Nil	Nil	0.02	Nil
scarlet fever	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
respiratory tuberculosis	Nil	0.02	0.37	0.75
tuberculosis (other forms)	Nil	Nil	0.02	0.18
cancer	2.40	1.88	2.09	1.66
diseases of circulatory system (excluding cerebrovascular disease)	3.69	3.88	3.55	2.74
diseases of respiratory system	1.89	1.40	1.29	2.64
cerebrovascular disease	1.29	1.09	1.13	0.95
road traffic accidents	0.16	0.21	0.08	0.09
all other accidents	0.26	0.28	0.08	0.62
Deaths under 65 years of age - percentage of total	33	39	44	62

* Statistical data for 1942 is not available.

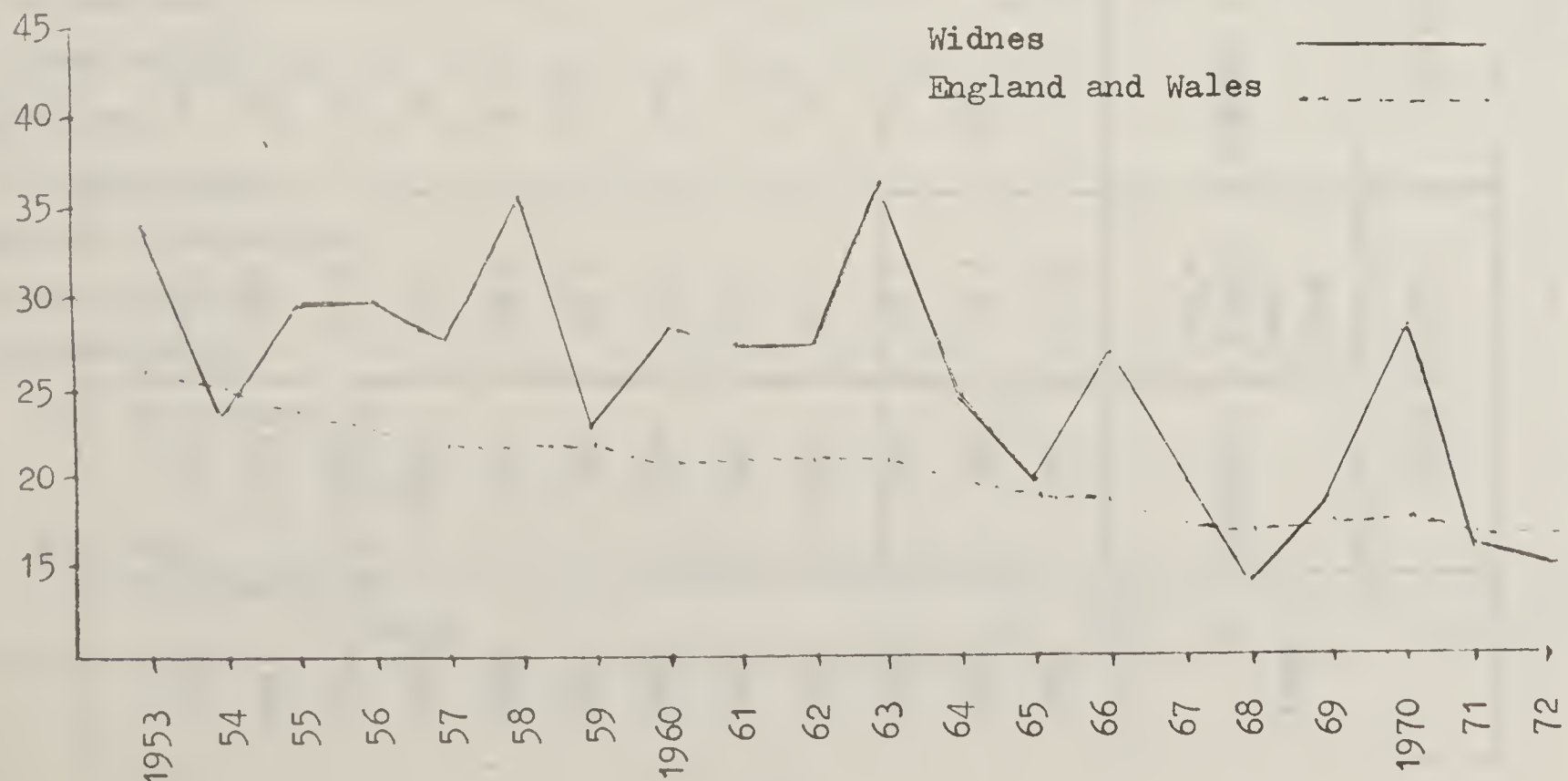
INFANT MORTALITY

The infant mortality rate for 1972 of 15.2 per thousand live births was the second lowest recorded for the Borough. This is the second year in succession and the third time in the past five years that the Widnes rate has been lower than the national figure. The fact that this has occurred on only one previously recorded occasion, in 1954, makes this recent trend extremely gratifying. If we are looking for reasons, the gradual but progressive improvement in environmental conditions must rank high on our list. The stillbirth rate did not remain at the extremely low rate of the previous year, nor was it below the national figure. Nevertheless, the rate of 16 per 1,000 live and stillbirths was very much lower than the average of even the previous five years. The following table shows details of the causes of infant mortality occurring in the Borough during the year.

Cause of death	Under 1 week	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 3 weeks	3 - 4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1 - 3 months	3 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	3
Respiratory distress	3	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	3
Congenital anomalies	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	3
Bronchiolitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	3
Pneumonia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Other causes	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	9	1	1	1	10	1	1	3	1	15

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths per 1,000 Live Births



LIVE BIRTHS, STILLBIRTHS AND INFANT DEATHS, 1961-72

Year	Live Births		Stillbirths		Neo-natal		Infant Deaths		Perinatal		Stillbirths + Infant Deaths	
	Number	Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	Number	Rate per 1,000 total births	Number	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number	Rate per 1,000 total births	Number	Rate per 1,000 total births
1961	1,121	21.3	31	27	21	19	31	28	48	42	62	54
1962	1,298	23.1	35	26	29	22	37	28	60	45	72	54
1963	1,152	20.2	21	18	32	28	43	37	47	40	64	55
1964	1,261	22.1	24	19	21	17	32	25	42	33	56	44
1965	1,197	20.7	16	13	16	13	24	20	30	25	40	33
1966	1,159	20.0	20	17	15	13	31	27	31	26	51	43
1967	1,080	18.6	24	22	14	13	22	20	38	34	46	42
1968	1,075	18.8	23	21	11	10	15	14	32	29	38	35
1969	1,005	17.1	30	29	11	11	19	19	41	40	49	47
1970	1,143	19.3	26	22	22	19	33	29	46	39	59	50
1971	1,088	18.0	10	9	11	10	18	17	21	19	28	26
1972	985	16.9	16	16	10	10	15	15	25	25	31	31

LABORATORY FACILITIES -

Specimens were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination during 1972 as follows:-

<u>Origin</u>	<u>Specimen</u>	<u>Positive</u>	<u>Negative</u>
Routine examination of Water	faeces	-	55
Department personnel	urine	-	53
Typhoid fever - cases and contacts	faeces	5	237
	urine	-	71
Investigation into Suspected Food Poisoning	faeces	12	101
	urine	-	1
Examination prior to admission to Childrens Home	faeces	-	4
Other investigations	faeces	1	13

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE -

(i) Notifiable Diseases during the Year

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-
Paratyphoid	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-
Infective Jaundice	3	-	-
Tetanus	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	5	5	-
Leptospirosis	-	-	-
Acute Meningitis	-	-	-
Measles	224	2	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	3	-	-
Tuberculosis -			
(a) Pulmonary (M	3	-	-
(F	-	-	-
(Total	3	-	-
(b) Non (M	-	-	-
Pulmonary (F	1	-	-
(Total	1	-	-

(ii) Analysis of Notifiable Diseases in Age Groups

CASES NOTIFIED											
	Total cases at all ages	Under 1 year	1 - 2 years	3 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10 - 14 years	15 - 24 years	25 - 44 years	45 - 64 years	65 years and over	Age unknown
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	224	10	45	48	117	2	-	-	-	-	2
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Jaundice	3	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	5	-	-	2	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Tetanus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leptospirosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Respiratory Tuberculosis M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Resp. Tuberculosis M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals:	242	11	45	50	121	4	1	3	3	2	2

SCARLET FEVER -

Two cases were notified during the year. The number of cases notified during the preceding five years were:-

1967 - 19; 1968 - 14; 1969 - 3; 1970 - 16; 1971 - 4.

TYPHOID AND PARATYPHOID FEVER -

The five cases of typhoid fever were members of a family which had just returned from a period of residence in Malawi.

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS -

For the tenth year in succession there were no cases of poliomyelitis notified in the Borough. The following table shows details of the incidence of the disease during the previous fourteen years.

Year	No. of cases	No. of deaths	Year	No. of cases	No. of deaths
1958	3	-	1965	-	-
1959	7	-	1966	-	-
1960	-	-	1967	-	-
1961	2	-	1968	-	-
1962	1	-	1969	-	-
1963	-	-	1970	-	-
1964	-	-	1971	-	-

FOOD POISONING -

Two of the cases of food poisoning shown in the analysis of notifiable diseases were part of an outbreak which resulted from a meal taken at a local hotel. This outbreak was fully investigated and recommendations were made.

TUBERCULOSIS -

There were only four cases of tuberculosis notified during the year and during this period there were no deaths from the disease. Three of the cases were respiratory tuberculosis none of which were below the age of fifty.

Seven cases of respiratory tuberculosis were reported to have recovered from the disease during the year. After allowing for these and the new cases and making adjustments in respect of removals in and out of the Borough the numbers remaining on the register at the end of the year were as follows:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Respiratory tuberculosis	132	104
Tuberculosis (other forms)	4	13

Details of cases of tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease during 1972 will be found in the following table:-

<div>Table 1</div> <div>Age Periods</div> <div>(years)</div>	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
45 - 54	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	3		1		-		-	

Table 2 shows the incidence of tuberculosis in the Borough during the past thirty years.

<u>Table 2</u> Annual Average	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis	
	Case rate per 1,000 population	Death rate per 1,000 population	Case rate per 1,000 population	Death rate per 1,000 population
1942 - 1946	0.98	0.64	0.52	0.10
1947 - 1951	1.17	0.50	0.35	0.08
1952 - 1956	0.98	0.17	0.13	0.02
1957 - 1961	0.42	0.05	0.08	0.01
1962 - 1966	0.25	0.06	0.02	0.01
1967 - 1971	0.14	0.01	0.01	0.01
1972	0.05	Nil	0.02	Nil

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR ON

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS IN THE BOROUGH

A record of the work of the Public Health Department is as follows:-

No. of premises visited	2,284
No. of visits made	5,509
Defects or nuisances: No. discovered	1,030
No. abated	1,003
No. of notices served: Informal	362
Statutory	269
No. of legal proceedings taken	6

Premises kept under observation	No. of Premises
Factories	171
Offices	121
Food Premises	
Greengrocers and provision dealers	105
Greengrocers (including those selling wet fish)	29
Fishmongers	4
Meat Shops	50
Bakers and Confectioners	21
Fried Fish Shops	27
Sweet shops	42
Licensed Premises, Cafes and Canteens	196
Wholesale shops, warehouses	13
Manufacturing (other than retail)	3
Common Lodging Houses	1
Agricultural Premises	16
Shops (other than food)	173
Schools - Primary	27
Secondary	7
Further Education	1
Nursery	3
Special	3
Premises visited for investigation of infectious disease	8
Premises disinfested	242

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL -

There are at present no sewage disposal works in the Borough and there is an area of land not at present served by a main drainage system. Work on a main drainage scheme covering the whole of the Borough and including the construction of treatment works is, however, in progress.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION -

At the end of the year there were 2 houses with closets attached to privy middens and one with a chemical closet. The remaining houses in the Borough are provided with fresh water closets.

REFUSE REMOVAL -

This work is carried out by the Highways Department.

DISINFESTATION -

Two hundred and six dwellinghouses and 36 other premises were treated because of verminous infestation, mainly cockroaches. In addition houses in clearance areas were inspected and where necessary disinfested prior to the tenants' removal to Corporation houses.

HOUSING ACTS, 1936-69 -

The table set out below shows details of property represented for demolition during 1972.

PROPERTY	Number of houses represented		
	Individual houses		Clearance Areas
	Closure	Demolition	
12/54 Viaduct Street) 24 Parsonage Road) 20/50 Davies Street) 4/48 & 1/37 James Street) 6/26 Irwell Street) 11 West Street) 2/5 & 1/41 Beamont Street) 24/62 St. Marys Road) 31/9 West Street) 40/58 & 53 Wellington Street) 2 & 4 Canal Street) 5, 7, 9 Houghton Street)			22 70 62 12
Totals	-	3	166

Four clearance areas involving 166 houses and 3 individually unfit houses were represented for demolition. During the year 99 houses were demolished, one closed and 114 people (38 families) displaced.

58 new dwellings were completed by the Local Authority during 1972.

The following table shows the number of unfit houses dealt with during the past 15 years. Forty-one of the houses shown as closed have since been included in clearance areas.

Year	No. of houses represented	No. of houses closed	No. of houses demolished	No. of families displaced
1958	138	11	78	126
1959	29	8	143	82
1960	303	9	34	43
1961	47	14	59	98
1962	34	3	110	158
1963	139	2	77	88
1964	147	4	194	95
1965	187	2	127	165
1966	127	5	153	121
1967	89	7	115	123
1968	92	14	176	106
1969	42	6	133	99
1970	85	6	108	77
1971	188	5	89	78
1972	169	-	99	38

HOUSING AND SLUM CLEARANCE -

The improvement in the rate of representation of unfit houses was maintained during the year. It is essential that this improved rate should be maintained to ensure the clearance of all dwellings at present classified as unfit in the Borough as soon as possible.

There are still approximately 1,000 houses which are substandard and unsuitable for improvement and need to be cleared.

During the year the second Compulsory Purchase Order dealing with property in the easterly side of West Bank in connection with the proposed redevelopment of that area was represented to the Council.

A Public Local Enquiry into the West Bank No. 1 Compulsory Purchase Order was held in October. Confirmation of this Order is still awaited.

HOUSING ACT, 1969 -

Sixty applications for Qualification Certificates were received during the year. 74 certificates were issued and 113 applications were refused.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES -

There is one common lodging house in the Borough. It is old but is adequately supervised and in fair condition. Regular inspections are made of these premises.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963 -

Registrations and General Inspections -

Class of Premises	No. of premises newly registered during year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	6	121	109
Retail shops	9	326	335
Wholesale shops, warehouses	3	13	23
Catering establishments open to public, canteens	-	74	29
Fuel storage depots	-	4	-
Totals	18	538	496

Number of visits of all kinds by inspectors to registered premises - 904

Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises by Workplace -

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons employed
Offices	1,327
Retail shops	1,439
Wholesale departments, warehouses	301
Catering establishments open to public	321
Canteens	16
Fuel storage depots	16
Total	3,420
Total males	846
Total females	2,574

Registration -

Compliance with Section 49 of the Act and the Notification of Employment of Persons Order, 1964, has generally been satisfactory during the year.

Inspections -

Inspections and visits to premises have been maintained at a satisfactory level throughout the year, and no difficulty has been experienced in carrying out thorough and detailed inspections.

Analysis of Contraventions -

<u>Section</u>								<u>Number of Contraventions Found</u>
4	Cleanliness	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
5	Overcrowding	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
6	Temperature	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
7	Ventilation	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
8	Lighting	..	..	..	..	..	..	29
9	Sanitary Conveniences	..	..	..	..	..	..	29
10	Washing Facilities	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
11	Drinking Water	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
12	Clothing Accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
16	Floors, passages, stairs	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
17	Machinery not fenced or guarded	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
21	Noise	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
24	First Aid	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
49	Notification	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
56	Information to Employees	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
								<hr/> 316 <hr/>

Accidents -

During the year 16 accidents were reported. Injuries received were, in most cases, slight, but all but one of the accidents were investigated and recommendations, where necessary, were made.

SWIMMING BATHS -

There is one Corporation owned public swimming bath in the Borough. It is of modern design, completed in 1961, with a capacity of 220 bathers an hour. The water is deep well from the Widnes Corporation mains and is treated with chlorine, soda and alum. There is continuous filtration with a turnover period of three hours.

During 1963 a fixed type indoor swimming pool (capacity 25,000 gallons) was installed at Oakfield Primary School. It is used by that school and five others averaging between 250 and 300 pupils per day. The water is deep well from Widnes Corporation mains and sterilisation is by automatic addition of liquid hypochlorite with sodium carbonate added by hand when necessary. There is continuous filtration with a turnover period of five hours.

A portable type indoor swimming pool at West Bank Primary School is used by the children at that school. The water is from Widnes Corporation mains and sterilisation is by means of the addition of sodium hypochlorite. There is continuous filtration with a turnover period of eight hours.

Samples are taken from the water of these pools at regular intervals and submitted for bacteriological examination. One hundred and one samples of bath water were taken during the year, mainly with satisfactory results. It was, however, necessary during the year, to make certain recommendations in respect of the bath at Oakfield School. These, which included the limitation of the number of bathers, pending the installation of a larger pump and filter, were adopted.

WATER SUPPLY -

The water supply of the area has been satisfactory both in quantity and quality. The water is not liable to plumbo-solvent action and no form of contamination was discovered. The fluoride content of the water is nil. The results of bacteriological examination and chemical analysis of samples of the water taken during the year are shown in the following table.

	Bacteriological examinations			Chemical analysis		
	No. taken	No. satisfactory	No. unsatisfactory	No. taken	No. satisfactory	No. unsatisfactory
Of raw water	380	376	4	16	16	-
Of water going into supply where treatment is installed	293	284	9	5	5	-

All the dwellings in the Borough numbering 18,275 and an estimated population of 57,420 were supplied direct from public water mains.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960 -

Complaints

During the year there were twenty complaints regarding noise. These ranged widely from complaints about noisy animals, and children to noise from industrial premises. Club premises where music is played late in the evening have given rise to the occasional complaint from nearby residents. In these cases the nuisance was abated without recourse to formal action. Noise from industrial premises, usually generated by faulty equipment such as worn bearings and machinery, was promptly dealt with after informal approach by officers of the Department.

One persistent source of complaint is a large biscuit warehouse which is operated day and night. As this involves the loading and off-loading of large container vehicles at all hours, there appears to be no easy solution to this problem. The operation of taxi businesses in built up areas is also a frequent source of complaint from residents in the vicinity.

In most of the cases investigated it has been possible to achieve a satisfactory solution to many of the causes for complaint, by discussion and co-operation from the parties involved.

General

The pressure of other work has prevented the Department from carrying out systematic noise surveys. Some preliminary work has been done on road traffic noise, but this was inconclusive.

It is considered that a complete survey of noise levels within the Borough would be of great value in establishing present levels as a basis for future comparison.

CONTROL OF AIR POLLUTION

CLEAN AIR ACTS, 1956-68 -

The domestic smoke control programme was recommenced during the year with the confirmation in June of the Borough of Widnes (No. 10) Smoke Control Order. This Order which becomes operative on 1st July, 1973, includes 756 houses and 14 other buildings and extends the area of the Borough covered by Smoke Control Orders to 44% of the total and the proportion of dwellinghouses to 62%. Sources of smoke and other forms of air pollution remain constantly under observation and during the year 36 notices or written warnings were served. In 2 instances successful prosecutions were instituted under Section 1 of the Clean Air Act 1968.

The following is a review of the recorded levels of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the air in Widnes between 1963 and 1972.

1. Recordings

Daily average recordings are made of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere, at three stations in the Borough. Each station was selected to conform with the National Survey on Air Pollution undertaken by Warren Spring Laboratory:-

- (i) Oakfield: Classified B3E: Medium density housing surrounded by low density housing and fields. Smoke control area.
- (ii) Crow Wood: Classified B2: Medium density housing, surrounded by built up areas, but interspersed with some industrial undertakings.
- (iii) Town Centre: Classified X. Mixed Area.

Smoke and sulphur dioxide concentrations are calculated in accordance with B.S.1747 (Part 2) and are shown in micrograms per cubic metre of air, over each 24 hour period. The annual figures shown are the daily mean for the year quoted.

Comment

Smoke: The daily average concentrations of smoke recorded in 1964 and 1965 show a marked increase compared with the level recorded in 1963. Weather records indicate that during the autumn and winter months of those two years there were exceptionally long periods of calm and overcast weather. Temperature inversions took place frequently giving rise to greater ground level concentrations of smoke than would occur under more normal conditions.

From 1965 onwards the recorded levels show a steady decline, which it is considered was mainly due to progress in extending Smoke Control, and in part due to the general trend away from solid fuels to the use of gas, oil and electricity outside Smoke Control areas.

The sharp decline occurring in 1972 owes something to the coal miners' strike and is therefore not considered to be a typical figure.

Sulphur dioxide: Sulphur dioxide daily average concentrations show a steady decline over the decade, although there was some increase in 1968 at all three stations. The exceptionally low level recorded in 1972, it is considered was in some degree due to the coal miners' strike.

2. Sources of Pollution

Ten years ago the principal sources of smoke and sulphur dioxide pollution were domestic fires. This was true even of a town with a large concentration of industries using and producing both heavy and fine chemicals. Following the introduction of the Borough's first smoke control order which became operative on the 1st March, 1962, there has been a steady decline in this type of air pollution apart from the exceptional period already referred to.

It was anticipated that recorded concentrations of smoke would fall steadily as the Smoke Control programme progressed. The use of solid smokeless fuels initially in Smoke Control Areas No. 1 and 2 were not expected to bring about any substantial decline in sulphur dioxide concentrations. In fact the better dispersion of SO₂ arising from the use of carbonised fuels did bring about a noticeable fall in recorded concentrations. More significantly the increasing use of gas, and

electricity in the later smoke control areas has reduced sulphur dioxide concentrations to an extent that could not have been anticipated ten years ago.

The completion of the Smoke Control programme by 1975, will reduce the domestic source of pollution to one of insignificant proportions.

Over the same period there has been steady progress in the area of industrial sources of air pollution from smoke and sulphur dioxide caused by combustion processes. Modern industry uses a variety of fuels with low pollution potential, such as gas, electricity and oil. Although sulphur dioxide emissions arise from the use of oil fuel the enforcement of Chimney Height requirements by the Department ensures good dispersal under most conditions.

The emission of fumes and of chemical odours from manufacturing processes is a more complex problem which largely engages the attention of the Alkali Works Inspector. There has been steady progress during the last ten years which has resulted in some improvement in most registered processes. Much of this is due to the technical advances that have taken place both in the chemical industry and in the field of gas cleaning in that industry.

The Future

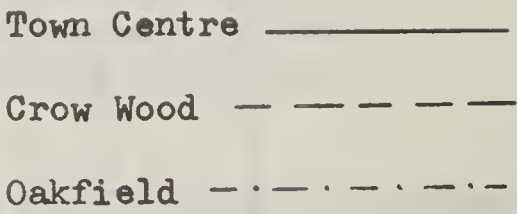
Although much remains to be achieved in reducing air pollution caused by smoke and sulphur dioxide, there has been very substantial progress during the decade. For the future the monitoring of other sources of air pollution, (e.g. lead, dust, nitrogen dioxide) may well engage the attention of the Environmental Health Services of the New District authorities.

It is only by the use of selective monitoring techniques that the extent of pollution from potentially harmful materials can be measured, and the remedy sought.

DAILY AVERAGE OF SMOKE AND SO₂ IN MICROGRAMS PER CU METRE

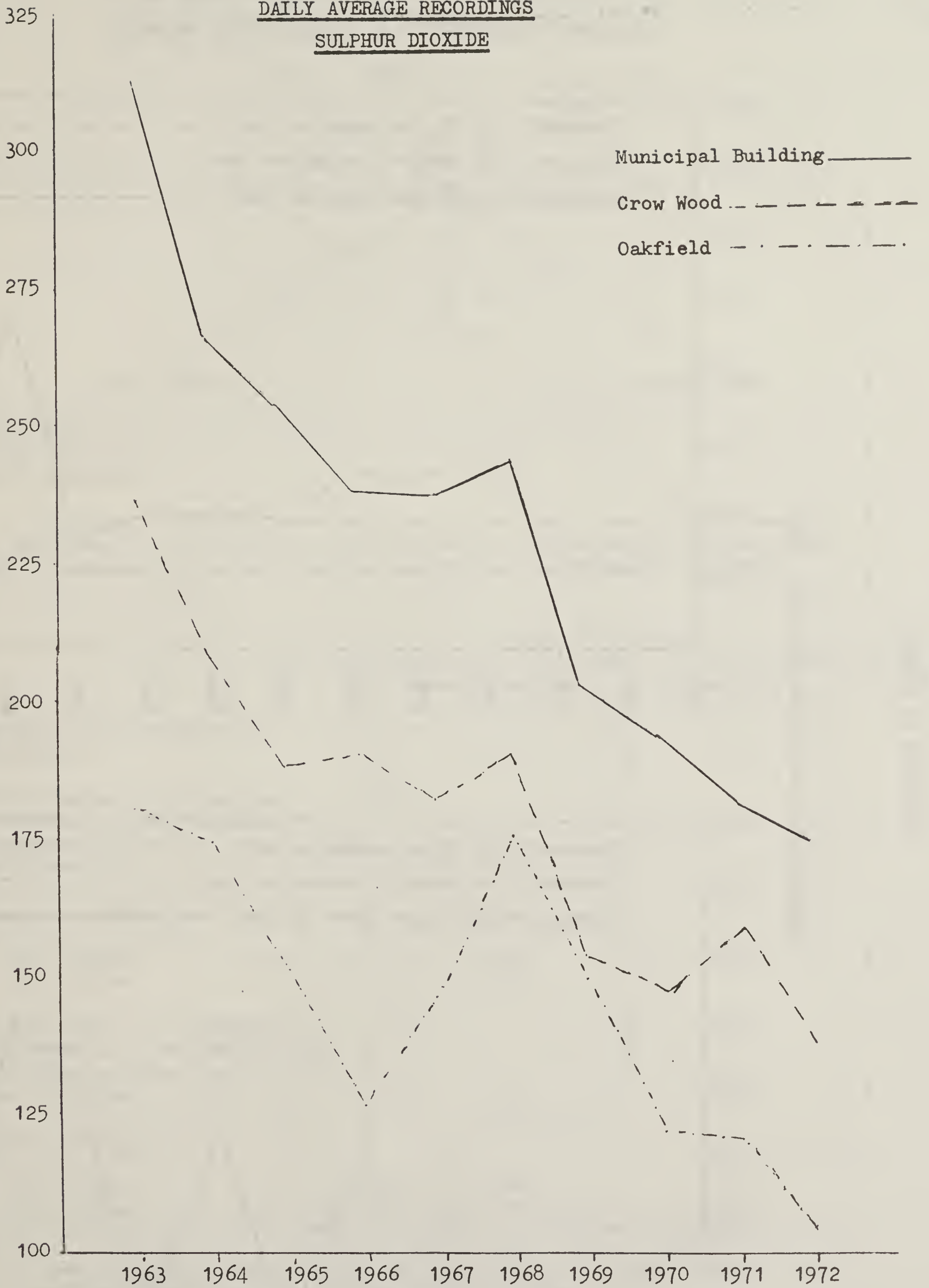
YEAR	SO ₂			SMOKE		
	CROW WOOD	Smoke Control Area OAKFIELD	TOWN CENTRE	CROW WOOD	Smoke Control Area OAKFIELD	TOWN CENTRE
1962	189.0	84.0	296.6	249.0	77.0	135.9
1963	236.4	180.5	312.5	92.2	50.0	140.6
1964	207.5	175.0	266.1	132.6	80.8	156.6
1965	188.0	153.0	254.0	150.0	91.0	156.0
1966	191.0	128.0	237.0	117.0	71.0	113.0
1967	181.0	147.0	237.0	105.0	68.0	93.0
1968	192.0	176.0	244.0	91.0	58.0	82.0
1969	153.0	150.0	203.2	93.0	62.1	88.1
1970	147.7	122.2	194.4	83.2	49.3	60.5
1971	159.3	120.0	181.3	76.5	54.0	61.7
1972	139.6	104.0	175.8	51.0	34.0	53.0

S M O K E



DAILY AVERAGE RECORDINGS
SULPHUR DIOXIDE

Micrograms per Cu./Metre

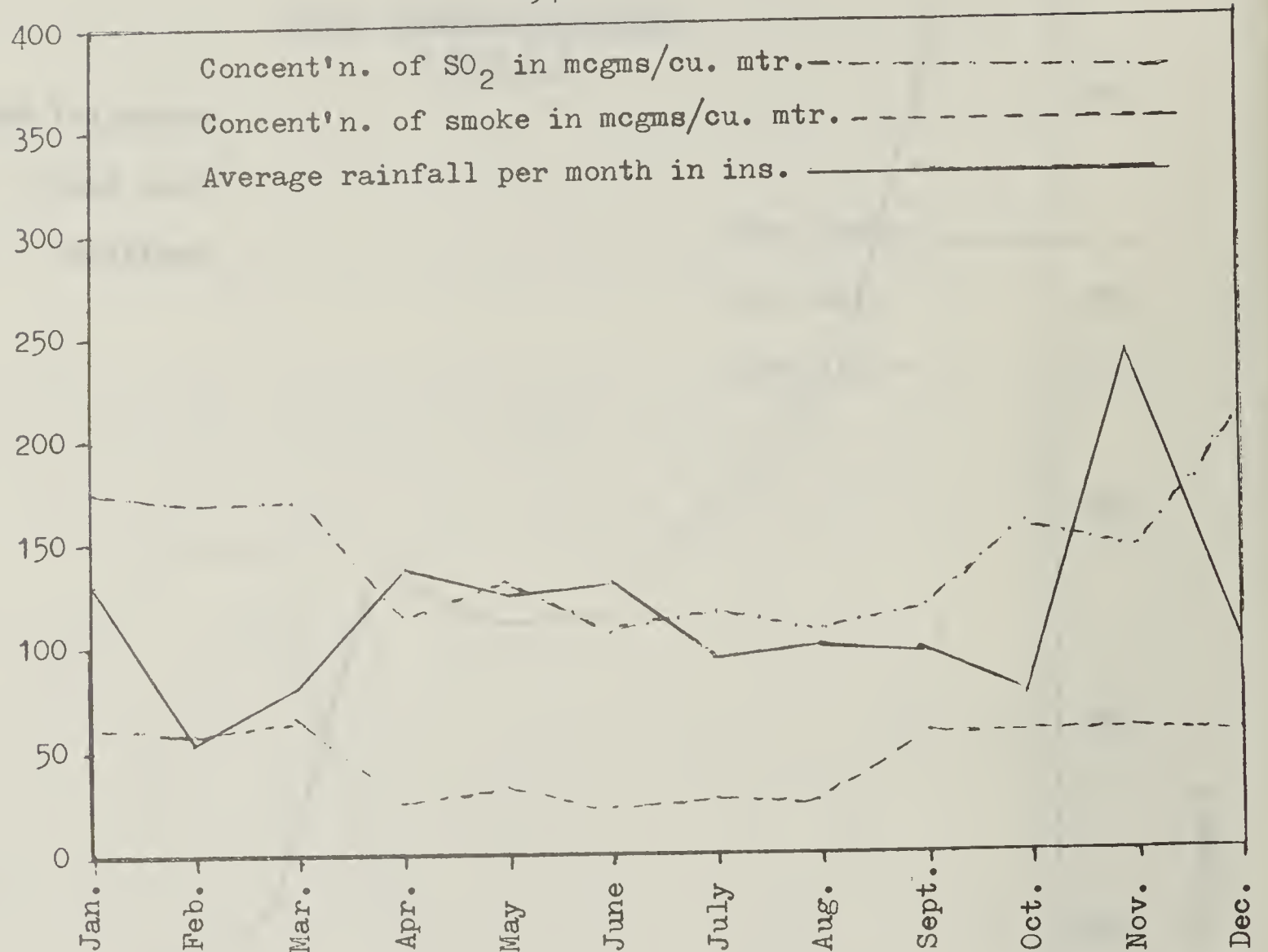


GRAPH SHOWING MONTHLY AVERAGES FROM
VOLUMETRIC INSTRUMENTS AND MONTHLY TOTAL RAINFALL

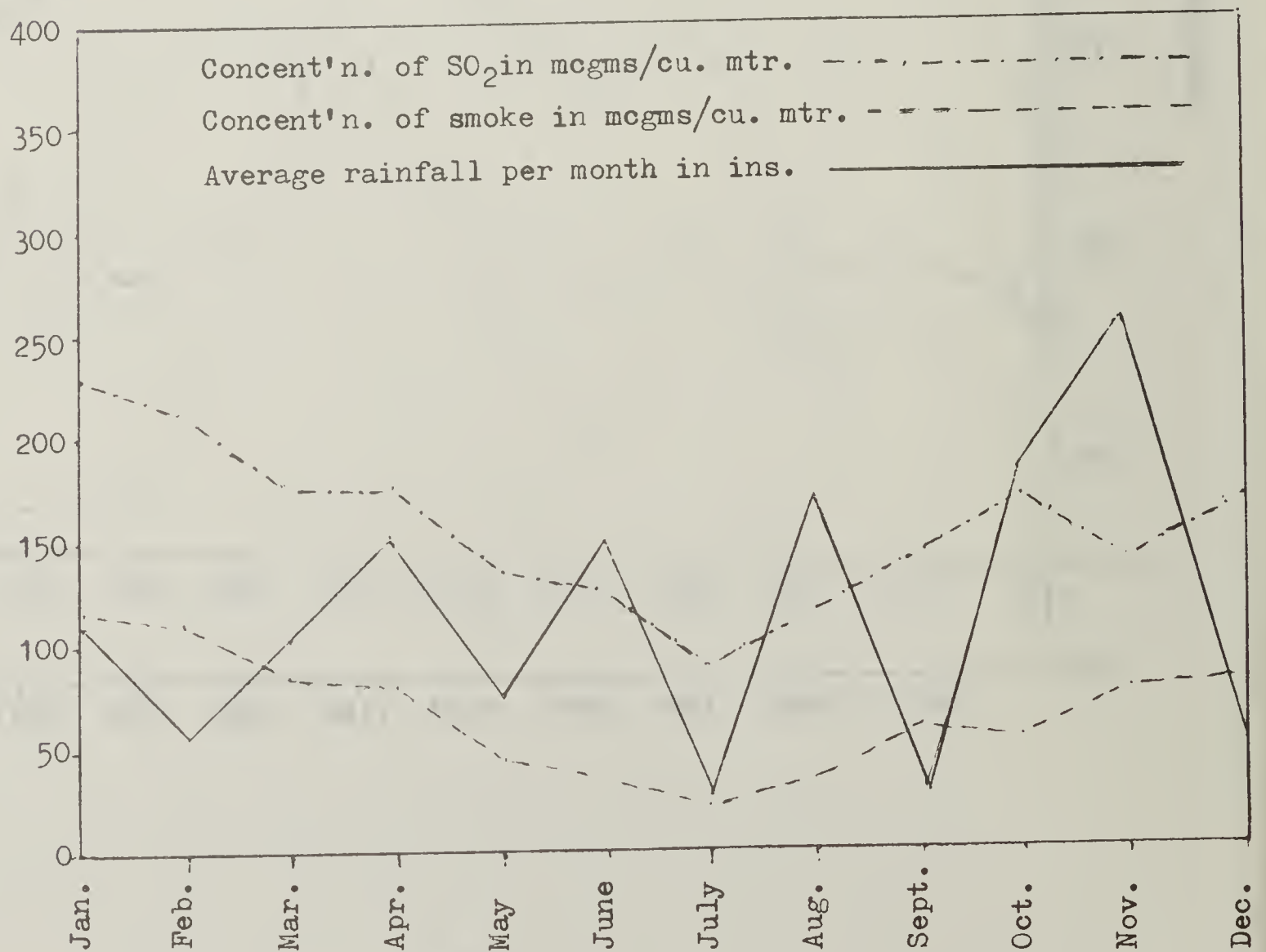
1972

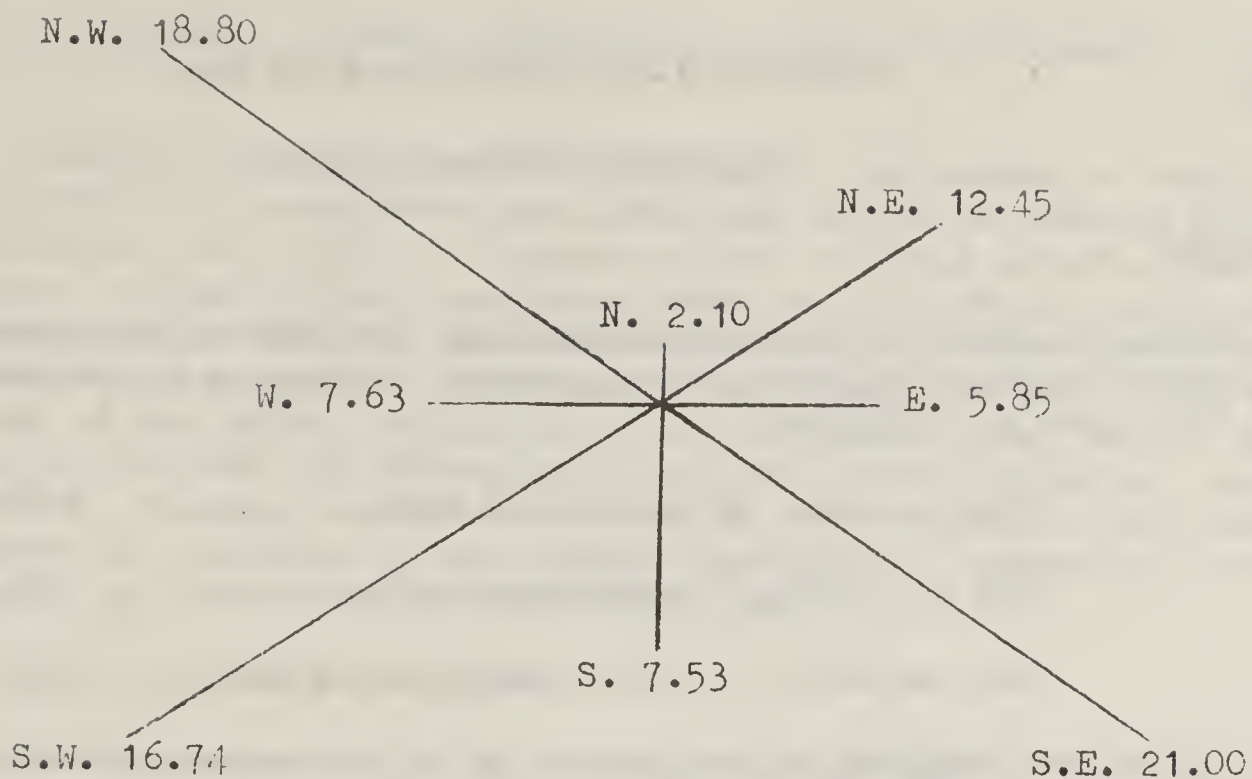
Rainfall in Inches

Concentration in McGrms per cubic metre



1971





Calm 7.90

RODENT CONTROL -

Two rodent operators were employed by the Local Authority and carried out their work to the formula of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. A summary of the work carried out during the period is appended.

	Type of Property	
	Non-agricultural	Agricultural
Number of properties in district	21,447	16
Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	834	-
Number infested by:-		
(i) Rats	385	-
(ii) Mice	280	-
Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notifications	40	16
Number infested by:-		
(i) Rats	26	12
(ii) Mice	20	10

Rodent control within the Borough, including an intensive sewer treatment, has been effectively maintained during the year.

A large number of factories and agricultural premises within the Borough are under contract to the Corporation and the remainder are kept under observation and treated where necessary.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

MILK SUPPLY -

During the year 6 licences authorising the sale of pre-packed milk at or from premises within the Borough were issued. Licences in existence at the end of 1972 were as follows:-

For the sale of sterilised milk	118
For the sale of pasteurised milk	93
For the sale of ultra heat treated milk	40

One hundred samples of pasteurised milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination under the methylene blue and phosphatase tests, and, apart from 2 samples which were declared void, were found to be satisfactory. One sample of milk taken for chemical analysis also produced a satisfactory result.

ICE CREAM -

One hundred and five premises are registered for the sale of ice cream in the Borough. During the year regular inspections of shops and vehicles were made.

OTHER FOODS -

Fifty-one samples of miscellaneous foodstuffs for chemical analysis and 278 for bacteriological examination were taken during the year. All of these samples, 3 of which were specific investigations for pesticide residues in food, were reported to be wholesome.

INSPECTIONS -

One thousand two hundred and ninety-eight inspections of premises where food is prepared, stored or sold and seventy-nine inspections of street trading and food delivery vehicles were made by public health inspectors during the year. Seventy-three formal notices were served and 109 verbal warnings were given in respect of contraventions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970. Details of inspections carried out are as follows:-

Retail Premises	780	Bakehouses	29
Wholesale Premises	20	Hotels and Clubs	150
Cafes and Restaurants	77	Market Stalls	76
Canteens	103	Street Trading and	
Food manufacturing premises	26	Delivery Vehicles	79

ADULTERATION OF FOOD -

Seventy-five cases of alleged adulteration of food were investigated by public health inspectors during the year. Those in which there was a suggestion of negligence by manufacturers or distributors were thoroughly investigated but with three exceptions legal action was impracticable or considered to be unnecessary or inadvisable.

The following are details of legal proceedings taken during the year:-

1. Section 2 Metal pin in bread	£25 fine £10 costs
2. Section 2 Mould in meat pie	£30 fine £5 costs

3. Section 2 Butter containing a piece of cardboard £15 fine
£5 costs

Although there has been an increase in the number of complaints received during 1972 it is considered that this may be due to greater publicity given by television and press to consumer matters of this nature. The public are, therefore, better informed and more ready to bring their complaints to this Department rather than to the manufacturer or retailer. The increase in all types of food pre-packing has tended to increase the shelf life of many foods, but some of the packs, particularly of the vacuum type, can be damaged and result in spoilage and subsequent complaints from consumers. Despite the increase in consumer complaints regarding these types of food stuffs, when considered in relation to the immense quantity of pre-packed food that is sold, the number of complaints is relatively small.

MILK SUPPLIES - BRUCELLA ABORTUS -

There was no raw milk sold in the Borough during the year.

THE LIQUID EGG (PASTEURISATION) REGULATIONS, 1963 -

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the Borough.

POULTRY INSPECTIONS -

There are no poultry processing premises within the Borough.

REGISTRATIONS -

Two premises were registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act for the storage and sale of ice cream. Registration of 12 hawkers of food under the Lancashire County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951 were also effected.

EDUCATION -

The education and training of food handlers in the basic principles of food hygiene continued to be an important part of the overall policy of the department. This is achieved by means of informal advice given during inspections of food premises and more formally through lectures at Widnes Technical College.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970 -

The following table gives details of food premises subject to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1970, grouped in categories of trade.

Type of Business	No. of Premises	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Regulation 18	No. of premises to which Regulation 21 applies	No. of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 21
Greengrocers and provision dealers	105	104	102	102
Greengrocers (incl. those selling wet fish, game etc.)	29	29	29	29
Fishmongers (incl. those selling poultry, game etc.)	4	4	4	4
Meat Shops	50	50	50	50
Bakers and/or confectioners	21	21	21	21
Fried fish shops	27	27	27	27
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice cream etc.	42	42	38	39
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes etc.	196	196	194	195
Others	11	11	10	10

Food Sampling -

The following tables show details of (a) samples taken for bacteriological examination and (b) samples submitted for chemical analysis, and the results obtained.

(a) for bacteriological examination:-

Samples	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Void Samples
Gelatine	270	270	-	-
Chicken	2	2	-	-
Cakes etc.	6	6	-	-
Meat Pies etc.	12	12	-	-
Heat Treated Milk				
Methylene Blue Test	100	98	-	2
Phosphatase Test	100	100	-	-

(b) for chemical analysis:-

Sample	No. of Samples	Genuine	Not Genuine
Milk	1	1	-
Meat and Potato Pie	1	1	-
Sausage	5	5	-
Salmon Spread	2	2	-
Cranberry Sauce	1	1	-
Chop Sauce	1	1	-
Onion Sauce	1	1	-
Horseradish Relish	1	1	-
Glace Cherries	2	2	-
Polony	1	1	-
Diet Milk Chocolate	1	1	-
Tomato Paste	1	1	-
Peeled Tomatoes	2	2	-
Tinned Salmon	1	1	-
Cockles in Vinegar	1	1	-
Crab Spread	1	1	-
Tuna Spread	1	1	-
Hard Cheese	1	1	-
Eggs	1	1	-
Spaghetti with tomato and cheese sauce	1	1	-
Evaporated milk	1	1	-
Pork Luncheon Meat	1	1	-
Shortcake biscuits	1	1	-
Cream Style Corn	1	1	-
Raviolli with meat and tomato sauce	1	1	-
Pickled Onions	1	1	-
Salted Peanuts	1	1	-
Washed currants	1	1	-
Hamburgers	1	1	-
Grapefruit juice	1	1	-
Ice cream mix	2	2	-
Ice lolly	1	1	-
Flavoured topping	2	2	-
Low sugar strawberry jam	1	1	-
Meat tenderizer	1	1	-
Whisky	2	2	-
Tap water	3	3	-

UN SOUND FOOD --

During the year 938 lbs. of miscellaneous foodstuffs, other than frozen food, were inspected and condemned.

On several occasions large quantities of pre-packed frozen foodstuffs became unfit for human consumption due to refrigerator break-down. The condition of this food, when inspected, was often such as to defy accurate measurement and description.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

1. INSPECTIONS -

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	171	10	2	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises).	8	13	-	-
Total	179	23	2	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND -

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted
	Found	Reme- died	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2	2	-	1	-

3. OUTWORK -

Notifications were received of eight outworkers employed during the year in the Borough in the making and altering of wearing apparel.

